

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 STR-04 EB-07 AGR-05 L-03 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 LAB-04 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

FRB-03 OMB-01 /058 R

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R 062050Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ETRD, COL

SUBJECT:FOLLOW-UP TO BILATERAL TRADE CONSULTATIONS, OCTOBER  
10-11

REFERENCE: BOGOTA A-120

1. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES STATUS OF WASHINGTON ACTION ON  
ISSUES RAISED DURING SUBJECT CONSULTATIONS, WITH EXCEPTION  
OF GATT ACCESSION BY COLOMBIA. (GATT ACCESSION WILL BE  
COVERED IN S:PTEL) WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON  
QUESTIONSRAISED PARA 3 AND 5 ON TEXTILES AND MEAT. EMBASSY  
SHOULD SEEK GOC CONFIRMATION OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF BILAT-  
ERAL TRADE DATA DISCREPANCY (PARA 4).

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2. TEXTILES: DEPARTMENT HAS REFERRED COLOMBIAN REQUEST FOR

INCREASES IN CATEGORIES 120-121 TO OFFICE OF TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS IN STR, WHICH IS NOW REVIEWING CASE. FYI: THERE IS VERY LITTLE CHANCE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO COLOMBIAN REQUESTS IN THESE CATEGORIES, AS THEY ARE AMONG THE MOST SENSITIVE DOMESTICALLY. ALSO, COLOMBIAN REQUEST IS ESSENTIALLY FOR ALTERATION IN BASE PERIOD FOR THESE TWO CATEGORIES. HOWEVER, IF SUGGESTED NEW BASE PERIOD WERE APPLIED TO ALL NINE CATEGORIES FOR WHICH CHANGES WERE REQUESTED, LEVELS WOULD BE REDUCED FOR SEVERAL OTHER CATEGORIES. IN ORDER FOR AGREEMENT TO BE INTERNALLY CONSISTENT THE SAME BASE PERIOD MUST APPLY FOR ALL CATEGORIES. END FY;

3. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON LIKELY IMPACT TERMINATION OF PIERRE CARDIN OPERATION EARLIER THIS MONTH ON COLOMBIAN MEN'S SUIT EXPORTS. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, QUERY GOC DIRECTLY ON THIS ISSUE.

4. TRADE STATISTICS - COLOMBIAN TRADE STATISTICS FOR 1974 PRESENTED DURING CONSULTATIONS SHOW MUCH LARGER COLOMBIAN TRADE DEFICIT WITH U.S. THAN DO USG FIGURES. WE HAVE REVIEWED INCOMEX DOCUMENT AND COMPARED DATA WITH DISAGGREGATED U.S. TRADE FIGURES, BUT FIND NO CLEAR EXPLANATION FOR DISCREPANCIES. A NUMBER OF PARTIAL EXPLANATIONS ARE POSSIBLE:

(A) COLOMBIAN IMPORTS - INCOMEX FIGURES SHOW DOLLARS 748 MILLION IN IMPORTS FROM U.S. IN 1974; U.S. FIGURES SHOW ONLY DOLS. 654 MILLION IN EXPORTS TO COLOMBIA. INCOMEX FIGURES ARE C.I.F., WHILE U.S. FIGURES ARE F.O.B.; USING A 10 PERCENT ADJUSTMENT, THIS WOULD ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 75 PERCENT OF THE DISCREPANCY ON THE IMPORT SIDE. WE ALSO NOTE THAT INCOMEX FIGURES ARE REGISTRATIONS RATHER THAN ACTUAL IMPORTS, AND EXCESS IN COLOMBIA OVER U.S. FIGURES COULD BE PARTLY ATTRIBUTED TO FAILURE TO COMPLETE AUTHORIZED IMPORT TRANSACTIONS.

(B) COLOMBIAN EXPORTS-INCOMEX FIGURES SHOW DOLS. 452 MILLION IN EXPORTS TO U.S. IN 1974, WHILE USG FIGURES SHOW DOLS. 516 MILLION. INCOMEX DOCUMENT NOTES THAT ITS FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE DOLS. 80 MILLION IN PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCT EXPORTS, WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO ACCOUNT FOR DISCREPANCY; HOWEVER, U.S. FIGURES SHOW ONLY DOLS. 24 MILLION IN PETROLEUM IMPORTS. WE BELIEVE EXCESS MAY REPRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHIPS, BUNKERS, AND FUEL SALES TO U.S. AIRLINES, AND POSSIBLY IN-BOND SHIPMENTS FOR USE BY COLOMBIAN AIRLINES IN U.S. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT COLOMBIAN EXPORTS TO PUERTO RICO ARE CARRIED SEPARATELY IN COLOMBIAN FIGURES, WHILE THEY ARE INCLUDED IN TOTAL U.S. FIGURES. SOME DISCREPANCY MAY ALSO RESULT FROM COMPUTATION OF LATE 1973 COLOMBIAN SHIPMENTS ARE 1974 U.S. ARRIVALS BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN TRANSPORTATION OR IN CLEARING CUSTOMS.

5. MEAT - AS NOTED REPAIR, GOC REPRESENTATIVES AGREED TO CONTACT AGRUCULTURAL ATTACHE TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF USDA INSPECTION FOR ADDITIONAL COLOMBIAN COOKED BEEF PROCESSING PLANTS TO QUALIFY THEM FOR EXPORTING TO U.S. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY REPORT ON FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WHICH MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE. IF GOC REP HAS NOT YET CONTACTED ATTACHE, YOU MAY WISH TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN FOLLOW-UP ON THIS POINT. KISSINGER

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